



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Complaint

Defendant: Rodney J. Cooper and Scott Cooper

**TWO PERSONS & RELATED COMPANIES CHARGED
WITH MAKING FALSE MEDICARE CLAIMS**

The United States has intervened and filed a complaint in a civil false claims *qui tam* action against Rodney J. Cooper, a/k/a, R.J. Cooper, age 60, of Oxford, and Scott Cooper, age 35, of Grand Blanc announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Also named as defendants are R.J. Cooper Company, Inc., R.J. Cooper and Associates, Inc., Dynamic Medical Products and Services of Michigan, and Great Lakes Restorative all located in Lake Orion, Michigan. These companies are controlled by Rodney and Scott Cooper.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, of the Detroit Division, and Thomas Spokaeski, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General.

The complaint alleges that from 2000 to 2005, the defendants conspired to submit false claims for more than \$1.2 million in Medicare payments. The defendants made false claims for Medicare reimbursement for durable medical equipment that either was not prescribed for use by Medicare beneficiaries, not ordered by them, not medically necessary or, in some

instances, never delivered.

Durable medical equipment is physician ordered reusable items for use in a patient's home. Among the types of equipment involved in the scheme were diabetic shoes and inserts, bilateral ankle foot orthoses, bilateral knee orthoses, spinal orthotics, and lower extremity suspension sleeves.

"Using civil litigation to combat health care fraud is among the highest priorities of this office," said Murphy. "Working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, our objectives are both to deter the wrongdoing and win back the fraudulent financial gain so that Medicare funds are expended for truly legitimate services."

The defendants' submissions for payment violated the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, *et seq.* Murphy said that the False Claims Act is designed to discourage and ferret out fraud against the Federal Government. The statute allows the United States to recover up to treble damages and \$11,000 per false claim submitted.

The *qui tam* provisions of the False Claims Act allows private citizens with knowledge of fraud against the United States to file a lawsuit on the Government's behalf. Under the False Claims Act, a whistle blower can receive between 15 and 25 percent of the government's recovery in a case that the government joins. It is estimated that the United States has recovered more than \$8 billion since 1986 through *qui tam* suits under the False Claims Act.

The case is being investigated by the FBI and Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Riordan.